

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Appended hereto as an attachment is a replacement sheet for sheet 1 of the drawings, to add the legend "Prior Art," as required by the examiner. Also appended hereto is a marked-up copy of the previously-submitted drawing sheet, showing in red the change that is included in the replacement sheet.

No new matter has been added to the drawings. Accordingly, approval and entry of the attached replacement drawing sheet is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The substitute specification together with the amended claims and the replacement drawing sheet accompanying this Amendment place the present application in better form and overcome the formal objections and rejections.

The drawings were objected to on the ground that Figure 1 should be labeled "Prior Art." That change has been made and is reflected on the attached drawing sheets.

The specification was objected to on the ground it did not include section headings. In response to that suggestion attached is a substitute specification that includes headings, along with other clarifying changes, none of which introduces new matter.

Claims 1-6 and 16-18 were rejected as indefinite. Those claims have each been amended for clarification, and it is believed that those amendments overcome the alleged indefiniteness.

Claims 1, 3-6, and 16-18 were rejected as anticipated by the Sakai et al. '272 reference, and claim 2 was rejected as obvious based upon that reference. As recited in amended independent claim 1, from which each of claims 3-6, and 16-18 depends, either directly or indirectly, the present invention is directed to a method for determination of the rotational speed of a rotatable component of a torsional vibration prone system. In such systems the determination of component rotational speeds is rendered difficult by virtue of rotational speed oscillations in the system. The present invention involves the measurement of the rotational speed of a first component that is in or on a vibration node, and

utilizing that measured rotational speed and the transmission ratio of the first and a second component to calculate the rotational speed of the second component.

The Sakai et al. reference, however, relates to a different method. The method disclosed in that reference is directed to the detection of whether engine speed is within an engine speed reference range, in order to assess whether a defect exist within the system, such as a defective solenoid-operated valve. The speed sensors disclosed in that reference are an engine speed sensor 64 and a transmission output shaft speed sensor 60, but it does not discuss the effects of speed oscillations on either of those speed sensors, nor of positioning one adjacent to a vibration node. The reference does not relate to the problem of determining a rotational speed in a vibration prone system. Indeed, the terms “vibration” and “node” do not even appear in the Sakai et al. reference. Because of those significant differences between the invention as it is claimed in amended claim 1 and the disclosure of the Sakai et al. reference, that claim is neither anticipated by nor obvious from that reference.

Claims 2-6 and 16-18 each depend from amended claim 1, and therefore those dependent claims are also not anticipated by or obvious from the disclosure in that reference, and for the same reasons as are given above in connection with amended claim 1.

Based upon the specification, drawing, and claim amendments to this application, it is believed that the substitute specification, those claims that have been amended, and the replacement drawing sheet conform with all formal requirements. Additionally, the claims are patentably distinguishable over the

reference relied upon, whether that reference be considered under 35 U.S.C. §102 or under 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested with a view toward the issuance of an early Notice of Allowance. And with respect to the withdrawn claims, the applicants are prepared to cancel those claims, but without disclaimer and without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of those withdrawn claims.

Should the examiner have any question after considering this Amendment, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that any such question can be quickly resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred J. Mangels', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

March 18, 2009

Alfred J. Mangels
Reg. No. 22,605
4729 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241
Tel.: (513) 469-0470